ALTRINCHAM

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

ALFRED GOLLAND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

DUNCAN C. MOODY.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1911.

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1912.

The ALTRINCHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the year ending December 31st, 1911.

The Births registered during the past year were Males 212, Females 198, or a total of 410.

This total is equal to a yearly rate of 23.0 per 1000 as compared with the triennial average rate of 23·5 per 1000.

The Deaths registered during the year were of Males 146, Females 129, or a total of 275. Subtracting 14 deaths of non-residents, and adding 20 deaths of residents who died in Institutions out of this district, the nett number is 281.

This total is equal to a yearly rate of 15·8 as against a triennial average rate of 13·0 per 1000.

The difference is to some extent discounted by the fact, that though only natural increase was taken as the basis for calculation since the last census, the census of this year revealed a smaller number of inhabitants than was expected, and the old rate was naturally smaller than it should have been.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

The principal causes of death include Measles 5, Whooping Cough 7, Diarrhœa 21, Violence 7, Respiratory Diseases 53, Phthisis 22, Typhoid 2, Diphtheria 1.

The Zymotic Rate is 1·8 for the year, as against 0·8 the average of the last three years.

The Infantile Mortality in 1911 was 173 per 1000 births, due largely to Infantile Diarrhœa during the very hot weather.

The notifications of Infectious Diseases by the medical men of the district were Scarlatina 33, Erysipelas 16, Typhoid Fever 23, Diphtheria 4, Membranous Croup 1, Puerperal Fever 3, Phthisis 13.

Removals to the Isolation Hospital were Scarlatina 30, Typhoid Fever 23, Diphtheria 3, Puerperal Fever 1 (to the General Hospital).

Notifications of Infectious Diseases from the Schools in the district include Mumps 17, Eczema 5, Ringworms 7, Measles 35, Chickenpox 2.

Inquests were held on 15 cases of death.

Deaths in the General Hospital were 37. This number includes 14 persons received in that institution from outside districts for special treatment.

The Ward Death Rates are North 10·1, South 22·1, East 14·5, West 14·8, Central 13·3.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

The Water Supply.—North Cheshire Water Co. derives its water from the Manchester Council Waterworks, and though during the drought the supply was curtailed during the nights, the quality was maintained.

Milk and Food Supply.—There are no cattle kept in the district. All milk dealers have been duly visited as usual during the year, and the cleanliness, &c, of these places seen to. In addition a great many extra visits were made during the hot weather and various advice and orders given. Bakehouses have been inspected and kept up to the mark.

The Slaughter-houses (Council undertaking) have been kept at all times under close observation, &c.

The Weekly Market is carefully looked after by the Inspector.

Scavenging and refuse removal is now carried on in admirable fashion, systematically and frequently.

Disinfection is carried out by the Council's officials in every case of infectious disease notified, together with stoving of bedding, &c. at the Isolation Hospital disinfecting plant. Phthisis is included in the systematic disinfection.

During the summer heat special disinfection of drains, &c. was undertaken, and a free distribution of disinfectants was made to all who applied for them.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

Houses where epidemic diarrhœa was discovered were specially visited and any necessary action taken.

Housing.—The cottages already provided by the Council are practically self-supporting and an extension of the scheme is forward. Part of this extension is already sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and part still under their consideration.

In Dale Square.—A scheme for the complete improvement of this district is, by consultation with the owners of property there, arranged, and is being carried out.

Destructor.—An application to purchase a site on the Moss is now before the Local Government Board, and I hope will do away with the present necessity for tipping.

There is also a very important Drainage Scheme in the East Ward, to separate and carry off the surface water from the general sewerage, which is nearing completion.

The New Isolation Hospital, opened at the beginning of the year, is working well and proving a vast improvement upon the old hospital in Lloyd Street.

The Council has now made satisfactory arrangements for carrying out the necessary work with regard

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

to Visitation, &c. under the Housing and Town Planning Act, and also the Notification, &c. of Phthisis.

In the matter of the Police Street area.—The Council is seriously engaged in dealing with this insanitary area, which it proposes to acquire and deal with in a satisfactory manner.

A report upon the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in the Broadheath District is added.

Generally, this year has been one of considerable progress in every direction of sanitary work, and a foundation is laid for further progress in many useful ways.

The various duties with regard to the sanitary work of the district, Workshops, Lodging Houses, Midwives, &c., have been carried out, and the Inspector's Report of work done is added.

ALFRED GOLLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 5th, 1912.

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The ALTRINCHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report upon an Outbreak of Typhoid Fever in the Broadheath District of Altrincham.

The District involved was roughly along the main road to Manchester, from the Canal on the South to the Cheshire Lines Railway on the North, and specially affected the area on the West side of the road, known as Dale Square and the streets adjoining.

In all it affected 22 persons, of whom 19 lived in this particular district.

Up to August 4th the town had been quite free from any case of Typhoid Fever, except one in April at the other end of the town, which was clearly traced to Salford, and had nothing to do with the present attack.

On August 4th I received four notifications of Typhoid Fever cases from three houses in Broadheath, all upon the high road from Atlantic Street to Sinderland Lane.

All these cases were removed to the Hospital the same day, their houses visited, and the fullest enquiries, &c. made. The houses, drains, ashpits, bedding, &c.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

were all disinfected at once. Investigations were at once made as to all food supplies, milk, water, &c.

On August 12th, another case was reported in Dale Square and removed to the Hospital on this day. Disinfection as in the other cases. Another child who had been sleeping with this case was seen and eventually removed to the Hospital on the 19th, with another disinfection of premises.

August 12th, two other cases were reported and removed to Hospital from the same neighbourhood.

August 15th, a case was reported and removed from Navigation Road.

No further cases occurred until September 6th when another case was reported from Dale Square, from the house next to that from which the two children had been removed. It was removed and the usual disinfection carried out.

September 7th, two cases reported and removed, one being a daughter of one of the first cases.

September 9th, another case from Dale Square removed.

September 12th, a case from Grosvenor Road removed.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

September 13th, a case from Churchill Road removed.

Further cases occurred in this district on the 14th, 20th, 22nd, 29th and October 4th and were all removed as reported.

Cause of Outbreak.—The very local character of the outbreak made it very unlikely that it had anything to do with either the milk or water supply, but every investigation was made into this and other foods. I am greatly indebted to my friend, Dr. Garstang, Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District, for personally tracing out the whole of the farm supply of milk. No illness or suspicious circumstances were found by him and the supply was so various to the patients affected that it may safely be excluded, in fact in two cases nothing but tin milk had been used.

The Water Supply was in every case that of the North Cheshire Water Co., which received its water from the Manchester Waterworks, this had clearly nothing to do with the disease.

Other foods were all investigated and found of very various supply and clearly did not account for the epidemic.

On August 13th, as the result of an unsigned letter I received, I visited No. 29, Dale Square, and

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

found an unreported case of Typhoid in the third week of the disease, case removed at once and house disinfected, there had been no medical attendance upon this case. Further enquiries revealed that this was the fourth case of illness (almost certainly Typhoid) in this house, extending back to a date anterior to the first cases of the present epidemic, and that the mother, a charwoman, had been working at the first house from which I received a notification. Upon the various facts I discovered with regard to these cases, and their connection with others of the persons affected, I have no doubt that this was the source of infection. It was possible to trace all the subsequent cases to infection from patient to patient.

Sanitary Conditions.—The sanitary conditions varied considerably. Of the 18 houses affected, 6 had waterclosets and ashbins ; 12 had double privy ashpits, 3 were in bad condition, 2 were the old brick ashpits, and 7 were the best of their kind, shallow and cemented. The drains with one exception were all in perfect order, trapped with modern gullies and quite free. The condition of the houses themselves as to cleanliness and good housekeeping was : very good, 7 ; fair to good, 6 ; dirty, 5. There was no overcrowding.

The measures taken to deal with the outbreak on the first notification were : Sewers and drains flooded with disinfectant, all ashpits in the area emptied and

scraped and disinfected, yard drains disinfected, yards of all cottages sluiced and cleaned by the Council's men, free disinfectants to many hundreds of bottles distributed, notices posted with directions, houses disinfected, clothing, bedding, &c. removed to the Isolation Hospital disinfecting plant and thoroughly treated, constant visits of inspection, &c.

There were no further cases after October 4th when the last patient was removed to Hospital.

Since thence a scheme for dealing with the whole of the Dale Square area is in progress and promises a great improvement in the condition of life there.

As some considerable open space exists in this locality it is proposed to make a children's playground, &c. In view of some criticism which has been indulged in, it is only fair to point out that the Sanitary Committee had this scheme sanctioned and plans prepared before the epidemic began. With the ready co-operation of the owner they are engaged in carrying it out.

ALFRED GOLLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 5th, 1912.

Medical Officer's Report—continued.

List of cases and addresses with dates of notification :

1	G. Johnson, 167, Manchester Road	Aug. 4
2	G. Bartlett, Railway Inn, Broadheath	,, 4
3	L. Thackrey, ,, ,,	,, 4
4	E. Bullock, 143, Manchester Road	,, 4
5	N. Shuttleworth, 33, Dale Square	,, 12
6	E. N. Poole, 14, Hale Road	,, 12
7	E. Rodgerson, 177, Manchester Road	,, 12
8	J. Valentine, 31, Navigation Road	,, 15
9	B. Shuttleworth, 33, Dale Square	,, 19
10	E. Gibson, 31, Dale Square	Sep. 6
11	B. Eagan, 25, Davenport Street	,, 6
12	M. Johnson, 167, Manchester Road	,, 7
13	A. Walton, 65, Manor Road	,, 7
14	F. Sourbutts, 19, Dale Square	,, 9
15	A. Davidson, 8, Grosvenor Road	,, 12
16	E. Vernon, 29, Dale Square	,, 13
17	H. Chorlton, 8, Churchill Road	,, 13
18	P. Spencer, 21, Dale Square	,, 14
19	A. Eckersall, 15, Dale Square	,, 20
20	A. Hough, 11, Salisbury Road	,, 23
21	F. Wright, 36, Davenport Street	,, 29
22	E. Stockton, 21, Dale Square	,, 29
23	W. Vernon, 29, Dale Square	Oct. 4

Number 22 proved not to be a case of Typhoid and the blood test gave negative results. Numbers 7 and 11 died.

ALTRINCHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY AND HACKNEY COACH DEPARTMENT.

To Alfred Golland, Esq., J.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending December 31st, 1911.

	Cases dealt with
Privies converted into waterclosets and provided	26
Repairs to privies and ashpits (various) ...	57
Ashbins in broken condition	15
No doors to Ashpits	29
Yard and passage floors paved and repaired	96
Defective yard and passage drains... ...	40

Sanitary Inspector's Report—continued.

	Cases dealt with
Defective spouting in connection with dwelling-houses	19
Down spouts disconnected from house drains	40
Rainwater pipes disconnected from soil pipes	7
Sinks provided to dwelling-houses	3
Drains provided to the same	3
Sinks unprovided for dwelling-houses ...	2
Drains unprovided for dwelling-houses ...	7
Dwelling-houses in dirty condition	10
Houses overcrowded	8
Accumulation of manure	36
Defective slopstone pipes and walls round the same in broken condition	34
Cellar drains blocked	5
Defective pans of waterclosets	3
Stable walls in dirty condition	6
Floors of back yards in dirty condition ...	21
Manure receptacles provided and repaired...	7
Keeping fowls and pigeons in back yards...	15
Various Nuisances	18
Dwelling-house chimneys on fire during the year	20

Sanitary Inspector's Report—continued.

Smoke Observations have been made during the year and the offenders have had their attention specially drawn to the same.

Houses Disinfected.—During the year 56 houses have been fumigated and purified in respect to 65 cases of infectious disease, two cases from the said numbers having been removed from the General Hospital. Scarlet Fever 30, Typhoid 24, Diphtheria 2 and Consumption 9.

Workshops, Workplaces and Laundries.—Visits were made during the year to 205 workshops, workplaces and laundries in the district. 66 defects were found in connection with the same, namely: want of limewashing 58, defective ventilation 3, and 5 rooms not measured up. Informal notices served with respect to the same.

Bakehouses.—Thirty-three bakehouses were visited twice during the year and found thirty-two defects in connection with the same, namely, want of limewashing. Informal notices were served upon the occupiers to carry out the requirements of the Act.

Milkshops.—Forty-three milkshops and milkplaces were visited twice during the year and the same were found in clean and satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-Houses.—Ninety-four visits were made to the slaughter-houses during the year and were found

Sanitary Inspector's Report—continued.

in satisfactory condition, and the limewashing attended to in accordance with the Bye-laws.

Lodging-Houses.—Fifty visits were made to the lodging-houses during the year and were found in satisfactory condition, and the limewashing had been attended to in accordance with the Act.

Cab Shelters.—The cab shelters were visited many times during the year and with respect to some repairs were found in clean and satisfactory condition.

Hackney Coaches.—The hackney coaches were inspected by your Committee during the year, and with some exceptions as to repairs, were found in satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats.—During the year 84 visits were made with respect to 71 canal boats ; 63 from the said numbers were found in satisfactory condition and 8 unsatisfactory, namely : paint of cabins defaced 7, and one not having the required certificate on board. Six of the complaints, *re* paint of cabins, were remedied and one corresponding about, and the master of the boat cautioned for not having the required certificate on board. The cabins contained living accommodation for 276 persons and were occupied by 160 persons, namely : 108 males, 31 females, and 21 children under twelve years of age, and there was no case of infectious disease on board.

Sanitary Inspector's Report—continued.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ASHPITS AND ASHBINS EMPTIED DURING THE YEAR.

Months	Ash-pits	Months	Ash-bins
January... ...	1126	January... ...	1036
February ...	1102	February ...	1045
March	1073	March	1047
April	1110	April	1047
May	1107	May	1053
June	1028	June	1053
July	1069	July	1059
August	1520	August	1059
September ...	1570	September ...	1061
October ...	1426	October ...	1061
November ...	1052	November ...	1061
December ...	871	December ...	1065
Total	14054	Total	12647

Ashbins emptied 4 times during the month.

DUNCAN C. MOODY,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To ALFRED GOLLAND, ESQ., J.P.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Altrincham.

Return of Inspections and Visits

made to the houses of the Working Classes in the District of Altrincham, from August the 18th to November the 31st, 1911, in accordance with the Circular of the Local Government Board, as regards the prevalence of Epidemic Diarrhœa amongst children.

Many visits were made to the homes of the people and advice given with respect to keeping their houses thoroughly clean, and to protect their food and milk from dust and flies, and the immediate removal of all refuse from out of their houses, also the ashpits being frequently emptied and a plentiful supply of liquid disinfectant served out to the people upon application.

CASES DEALT WITH AS FOLLOWS :

Bad smells from privy ashpits through the same not being provided with proper doors and fastenings	19

Sanitary Inspector's Report—continued.

Bad smells from slopstone pipes, the same being too short, and the walls round the said pipes being in broken condition ...	17
Removal of manure from out receptacles near to houses	22
Bad smells from dirty backyards and passages..	22
Smells from blocked gullies and drains in backyards and passages	13
Bad smells from empty fish boxes, tubs and vegetable refuse	6
Pigeon and hen cotes in backyards in dirty condition	11
Bad smells from dirty houses	5

DUNCAN C. MOODY,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.